

AMALGAM



#1
APR 96

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IN THEIR OWN BOOK—
AT LAST!!



MARK WAID
GERARD JONES
HOWARD PORTER
JOHN DELL



THE WATERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC CHURN WITH AN ICY FURY, BUT THE STORMING OF AN ANGRY OCEAN IS NOTHING--

-- AGAINST THE STORM IN THE HEARTS OF SEVEN HEROES.

HAWKEYE--
DISABLE THEIR
CRUISER WITH YOUR
ARROWS! CAPTAIN
MARVEL! ANGELHAWK!
FULL ASSAULT!

DOESN'T
MATTER WHO
THEY ARE--WHAT
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH
TOGETHER--WE'VE
GOT TO STOP
THEM!

FOR THE JUDGMENT
LEAGUE AVENGERS
HAVE NEVER FOUGHT
SO PAINFUL A
BATTLE AS THIS
ONE--

AMALGAM'S MIGHTY MUTANTS FIGHT ALONE!

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN!

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-- AGAINST
THEIR FORMER
TEAMMATES.

SUPERSOLDIER!
WATCH
FIREBIRD!

AARGHH!

WE WARNED
YOU -- JUST LEAVE
US ALONE! LET
US DO WHAT WE
HAVE TO DO!

OLLIE, GET
APOLLO! THE
REST OF THE
MUTANTS CAN
WAIT!

STAND CLEAR,
RUNAWAY! IF
THEY THINK--

STAY
OUT OF THIS,
MARINER! WE
NEED YOU TOO
MUCH!

SHRAKK

FAST
SHOOTING--

-- MR,
BARTON--

-- BUT NOT
FASTER THAN
MERCURY!

THE KING OF
ATLANTIS AND FIRST
AMONG MUTANTS WILL NOT
ALLOW OTHERS TO
FIGHT HIS BATTLES!
I AM THE REASON
YOU'VE TURNED AGAINST
YOUR FRIENDS--

-- AND I
WILL DEFEND
THIS "JLX"!

NO. THIS IS
ABOUT BIRTHRIGHT
-- NOT HONOR. IF
YOU'RE LUCKY,
THEY WON'T LAY
A HAND ON YOU--
AND NEITHER
WILL AH.

"LET WRAITH
RUN THE
GAUNTLET!"

LISTEN TO
HER. RUNAWAY'S
GETTING MORE
VIOLENT, MORE
STRIDENT, EVERY
DAY.

IS IT THIS
CRISIS THAT'S
BROUGHT OUT
THE WORST
IN HER--

2

3

--OR DOES SHE BRING OUT THE DARKNESS IN ME?

SORRY, CANARY!

GOD! THE COLD...!

BAMF

NIGHT-CREEPER--?!

BEEN USING THOSE WINGS AS FEATHER DUSTERS, BIRDBRAIN?

I THINK YOU COULD USE A NICE DEEP BIRD-BATH!

OOPS! MISSED!

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

BLANG

SO FAR, APOLLO, WE'VE TRIED TO UNDERSTAND THIS BETRAYAL-- BUT NOW YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!

WHACK

HOW CAN YOU UNDERSTAND UNTIL YOU'VE LIVED THE LIFE OF A MUTANT?! WE'VE GIVEN UP TRYING TO MAKE YOU SEE WHY THIS MUST BE DONE-- NOW WE CAN ONLY DO WHAT--

RAY! BEHIND YOU!



NNNGH!

BACK
OFF, DARK
CLAW!

I OWE
YOU ONE,
MR. X!

WE ALL OWE
MARINER.

RAY, WE HAVE
TO MAKE A DIVE!
DRIVE THE JLA
AWAY--BEFORE
THEY CAN GUESS
OUR DESTINATION!

KISS YOUR
POWERS
GOODBYE,
GOLIATH!

RUNAWAY--
WE WERE
FRIENDS!

"WERE."



NO-- THE
ARROW--!

UUNNGH--

RUNAWAY!

ALL RIGHT,
MARINER--WE
LOCKED YOU
UP ONCE--

BUT
NEVER
AGAIN!

MR.
X! I'M
DOWN!



THEN PLAY
YOUR TRUMP
CARD, WARREN--
NOW!

MY
BACK!

HUH--?!

YOU
BROKE...
MY...

B*!

AAAGH!

I-- I
DIDN'T
WANT
THIS!

NONE OF THEM DID--
AND IN AN INSTANT,
ALL COMBAT FREEZES...

...AS CAPTAIN MARVEL
DIVES DESPERATELY TO
SAVE HIS TEAMMATE.

BLAST IT!
DO YOU SEE
WHAT YOU'VE
DONE?

WHAT
WE'VE
DONE?!

YOU IMPRISONED
AN INNOCENT MAN
SO YOU COULD TURN
HIM OVER TO THE
MUTANT HATERS!
WHAT ELSE COULD
WE DO BUT PROTECT
OUR OWN KIND?*

*IN THE NOW-CLASSIC JLA #122,
OF COURSE!-- BASHFUL BRI.



HE'S
ALIVE!

BUT HE
NEEDS MEDICAL
ATTENTION--
NOW!

YOU
PLAYED
YOUR PART
WELL, ANGEL-
HAWK.

THANKS TO YOU
PROJECTING REAL
PAIN INTO MY MIND,
MR. X...

YEAH,
THANKS A
TON.

YOUR SECRET
IS SECURE,
WARREN.

NO ONE
BUT ME KNOWS
YOU ARE A
MUTANT.

BE
GLAD OF
THAT.

THE TRUTH
WILL OUT.

QUICKLY,
NOW...

AFTER ALL THE BATTLES I'VE
WAGED TO PROTECT MY OCEANS
FROM YOUR DEPREDATIONS... YOU
SURFACE DWELLERS DISPLAY
MORE COMPASSION THAN I'D
HAVE GUESSED.

ARE YOU INCLUDING
WHOEVER FRAMED
YOU FOR TORCHING
THOSE ROXXON
TANKERS?

WE'LL GO WITH
YOU, MAR-VELL!
THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH
DAMAGE HERE-- I
WON'T SEE THE JLA
DESTROYED BY THIS.

THERE'LL BE
TIME TO CAPTURE
MARINER LATER...
IF HIS GUILT CAN
BE PROVEN.

"... THE TIME
IS AT HAND!"

MARVEL'S
BLOW DAMAGED
THE WAVECRUISER'S
HULL, SUBMERGING
MAY KILL US ALL.
IF ANYONE WISHES
TO LEAVE...

NO, MR. X.
NO RISK IS TOO
GREAT... IF IT
MEANS FINDING
THE ANCESTRAL
HOME OF
MUTANTKIND!

VERY WELL,
MARINER! ARE YOU
READY FOR ANOTHER
MIND-PROBE? IT
WON'T BE
PLEASANT.

I'VE BEEN
SEARCHING FOR
THE LOST CITY
OF MY PEOPLE FOR
MY ENTIRE ADULT
LIFE. NOTHING
WILL STOP ME
NOW.

LIKE A SEARCHLIGHT THROUGH
CLOUDS, LIKE A KNIFE THROUGH
TISSUE, THE MIND OF MR. X
PENETRATES...

... GLIDING THROUGH THE PAIN
AND CONFUSION OF RECENT
TRAUMA, SEEKING THE MEMORY
OF THE PRIZE THAT STARTED
IT ALL...

"... THE LEGENDARY
PRIZE THAT MARINER
FOUND... AND LOST
TO AN ATTACKING
SENTINEL... *"



COME ON!
LET'S JUST
GO! LET'S
DO IT!

I WASN'T
FAST ENOUGH
TO HELP FLASH.*
HE COULD BE
DYING THANKS
TO PROFESSOR
KANG!

I'D RATHER
BE AT THE BOTTOM
OF THE OCEAN
THAN FACE THAT
FAILURE!

COURSE
PLOTTED, YOU
KNOW MY
AGENDA, MARCO
XAVIER--WHAT'S
YOURS?

I'M TOLD YOU'VE NEVER
BEEN ANYTHING BUT A
CRIMELORD, USING YOUR
TELEPATHY TO STAY ONE
STEP AHEAD OF THE LAW--

--BUT WHILE YOU
UNITED THE JLX--
INSPIRED THEM TO FREE
ME AND FOLLOW ME--
YOU'VE NEVER CLAIMED
THE NAME "MUTANT."

THERE ARE
OTHER KINDS
OF OUTCASTS,
DEAR MARINER...
THAN MUTANTS.

BWAAAA

HEY,
GANG,

WATER
PRESSURE'S
GOING UP...
AND THE HULL'S
COMING
DOWN...



"EVERYBODY GRAB
A BUCKET!"

I...
HAVE
IT!

TODD: CAN
YOU PHASE OUT
OF THIS? CAN
YOU SAVE ME?

... YOU...?

WHAT'S HAPPENING
TO YOU? YOU NEVER
PUT YOURSELF
AHEAD OF YOUR
TEAMMATES!

BUT THE
PRESSURE KEEPS
INCREASING! MY
PSYCHOKINETIC
FIRE CAN FUSE
THE COMPONENTS
FOR A WHILE...
BUT HOW
LONG?!

YOU'RE THE ONLY
MAN AH'VE BEEN ABLE
TO TOUCH... WITHOUT
DRAWING HIM OF HIS
LIFEFORCE. AH, WON'T
LET YOU BE TAKEN
FROM ME NOW!

AHEAD!
THERE IT
IS!

THE
DOME!




ATLANTIS!

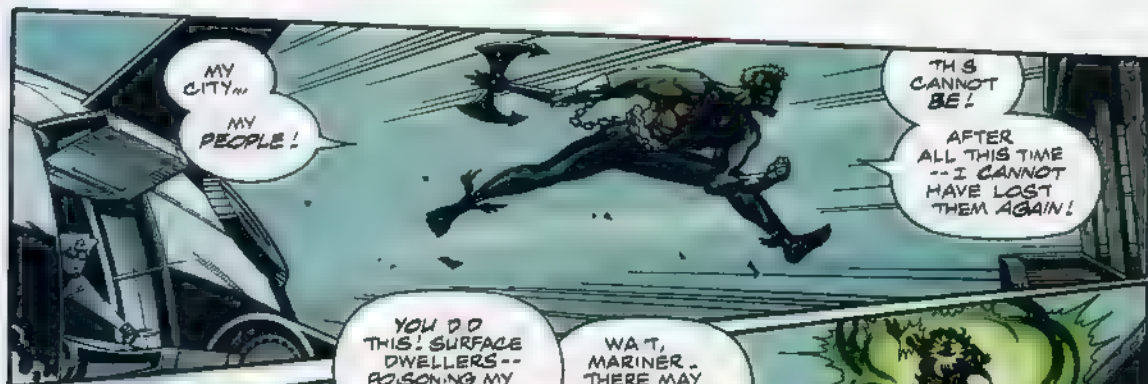
FORCING THE LOCKS--
RUSTY AND BARNACLED--
THEY BLAST INTO THE
SHELTERED CITY.

THERE IS
AIR HERE.

BUT THAT AIR
IS STILL.



AND SILENT
AS A TOMB.



MY CITY...
MY PEOPLE!

THIS CANNOT BE!

AFTER ALL THIS TIME
--I CANNOT HAVE LOST THEM AGAIN!

YOU DO THIS! SURFACE DWELLERS-- POISONING MY OCEANS, DRIVING MY PEOPLE--

WAIT, MARINER-- THERE MAY BE CLUES TO WHERE THEY'VE GONE!



NOT ALL OF US ON THE SURFACE ARE MURDERERS AND BLOODSUCKERS! IF WE STAND TOGETHER, NOTHING CAN--



NO...
NOT HERE!

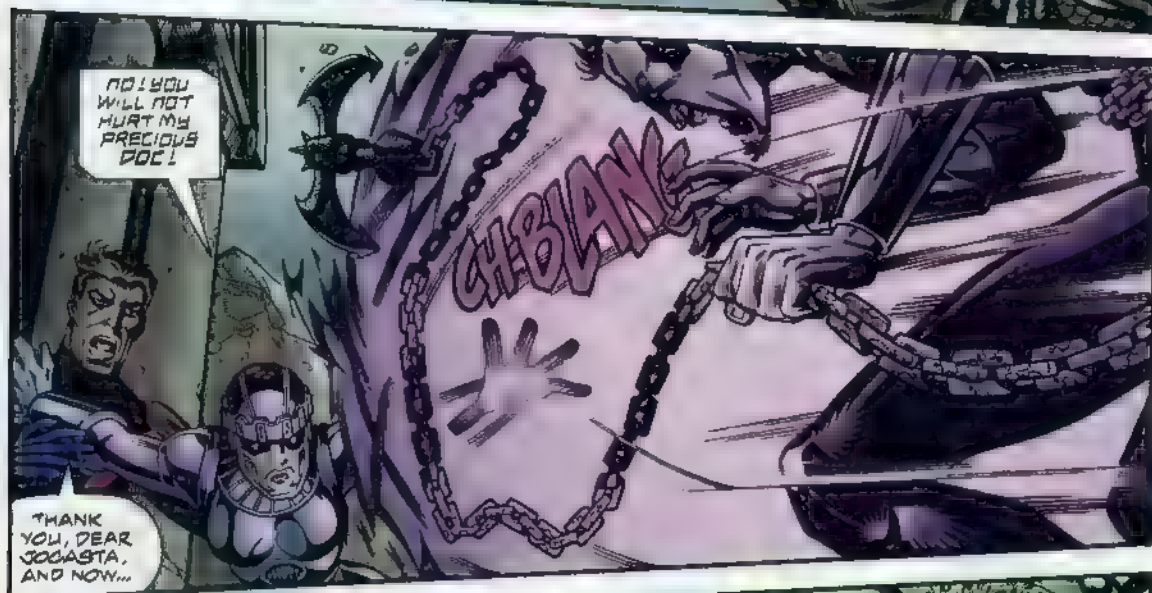
NOT
**WILL
MAGNUS!**

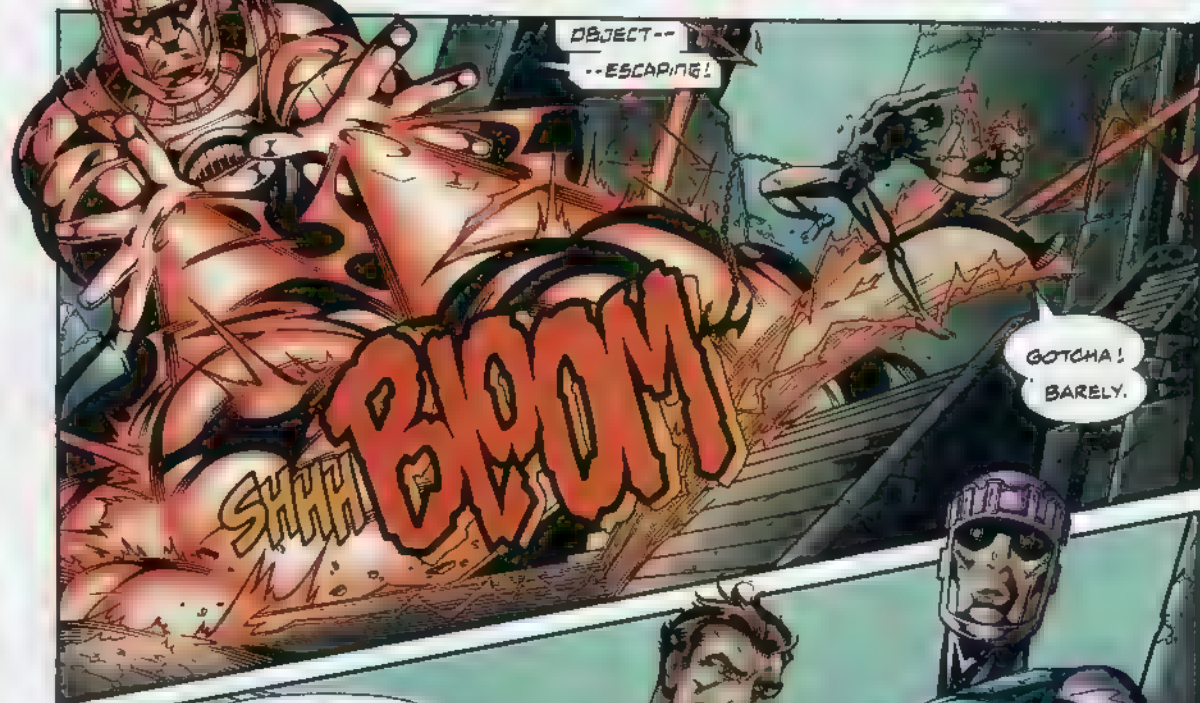
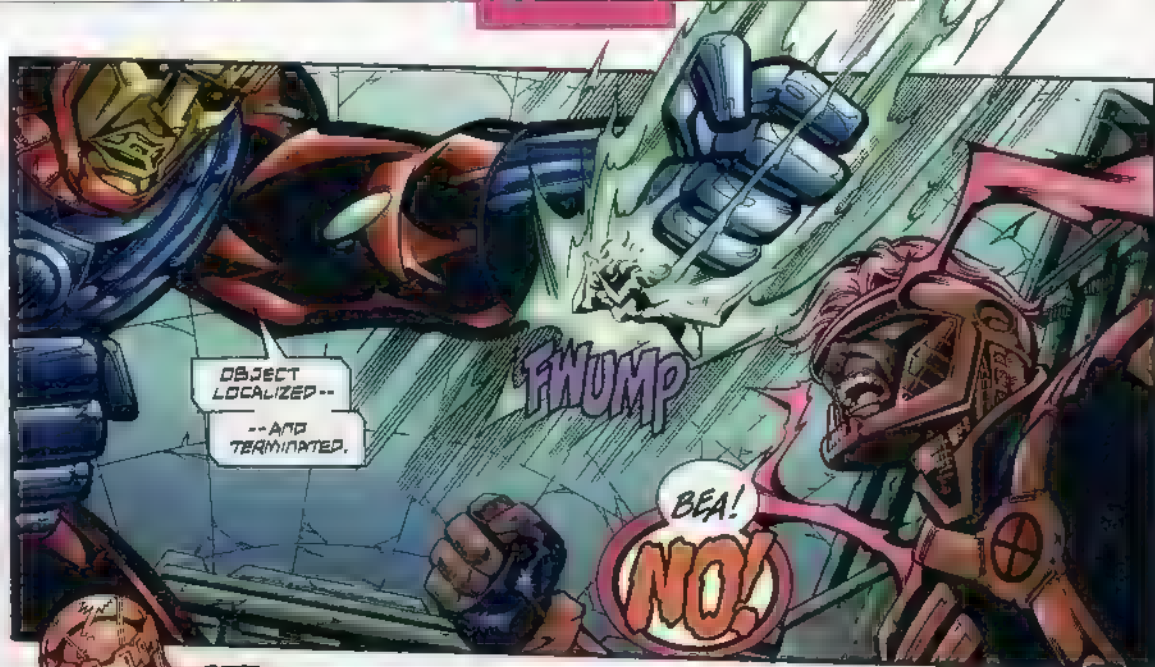
YOU'RE NO
MORE ASTONISHED
THAN I, APOLLO!
I THOUGHT I'D
REMOVED THE MARINER
TRUCK, BUT HERE
HE IS AGAIN... WITH
HIS PET MUTIES
IN TOW!

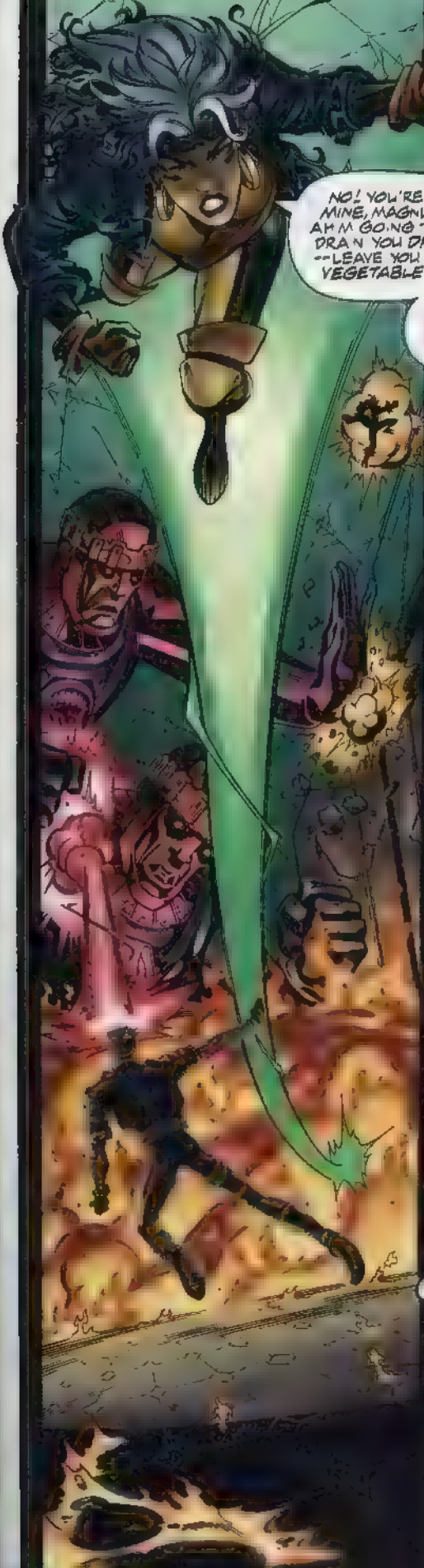
WELL, I
STILL HAVE THE
CROWN. AND EVEN
IF THIS IS A DEAD
END, I'LL FIND
YOUR MISSING PEOPLE
ONE DAY, AND LIVE
OUT MY DREAM...

...TO
EXTERMINATE
EVERY MUTANT MAN,
WOMAN AND CHILD
ON THE EARTH...
AND IN THE SEA!









NO! YOU'RE
MINE, MAGNUS!
AM GOING TO
DRAN YOU DRY
--LEAVE YOU A
VEGETABLE--

--AND
LOVE EVERY
SECOND OF
IT!

THEN IT'S TRUE. WHEN SHE
TOUCHES ME, SHE ABSORBS
SOME OF MY INEXHAUSTIBLE
DARKNESS. THERES NO HARM
TO ME...

...BUT IT'S
DRIVING HER
MAD!

FLESH
AND BONE.
=FAH=

SHHHHH

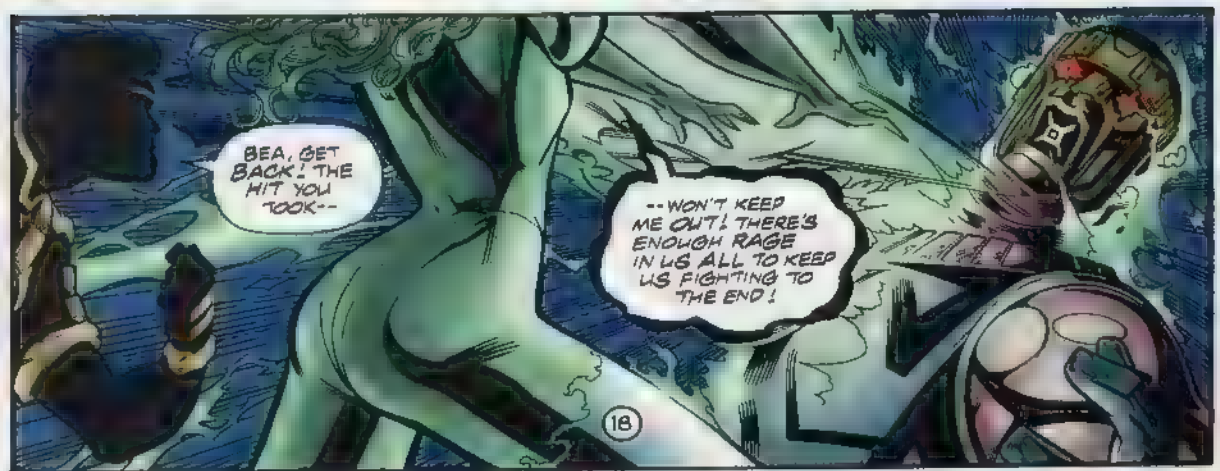
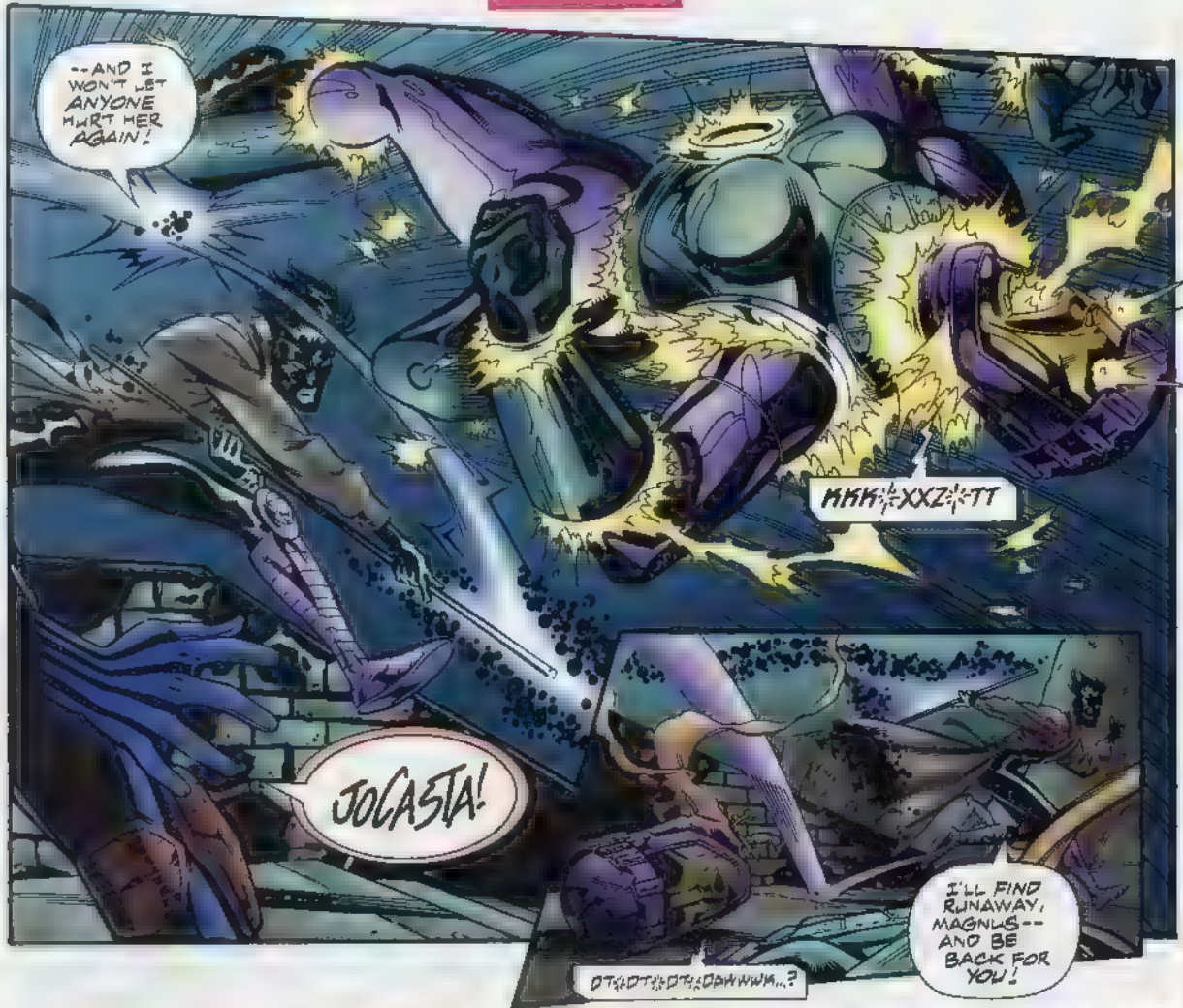
NOTHING.

SHOOM

NO!

I DO
THIS TO
HER--

--TAINED
HER LIGHT--



JOCASTA...

LOVELY JOCASTA...
ANOTHER JOY IN MY
LIFE, TORN FROM ME
BY... THEM.

AND NOW THEY TURN
THE BATTLE AGAINST ME
AGAIN! WELL, NOT THIS
TIME. THIS TIME I WILL
USE NO SUBTLETY!

SENTINELS--

-- STRIKE
AT THE
TOWERS!

MUTANTS
HAVE MADE MY
LIFE A TORMENT
SINCE MY BROTHER
FIRST MANIFESTED
THE POWERS THAT
MADE HIM...
MAGNETO.

HE'S
BRINGING
THE CITY
DOWN ON
US! GET
CLEAR!

VERY
CLEAR.

RUNAWAY?!

NO!



MERCURY'S
HELPING
APOLLO...

NO ONE
TO SAVE
HER BUT
ME...



...BUT THERE'S
NOTHING I CAN
DO! AT LEAST...



...NOT IN
THAT WEAK
FORM!

GIMMIM



MAN.

WHAT KINDA
VITAMINS ARE
YOU TAKING,
X?!



SO--
THAT'S X'S
SECRET!

PROBING REGISTERS
FLATSCAN ON TARGET.
NO MUTANT
GENE.

BUT POWERFUL
NONETHELESS! NO
MATTER--THE
ENDGAME WILL
BE MINE YET!
AWAY, SENTINELS!



THERE MAY
YET BE LIFE
FOR OUR DEAR
JOCASTA...

...AND THERE
WILL BE DEATH
FOR MUTANT-
KIND.



I'M GOING AFTER HIM!
I'LL HUNT HIM
TO THE ENDS
OF THE EARTH,
AND WHEN HE'S
MINE--

YOUR
BLACKENED
CAJUN BUTT'LL
HAVE TO BE
FASTER THAN
MINE, WRAITH,
OR--

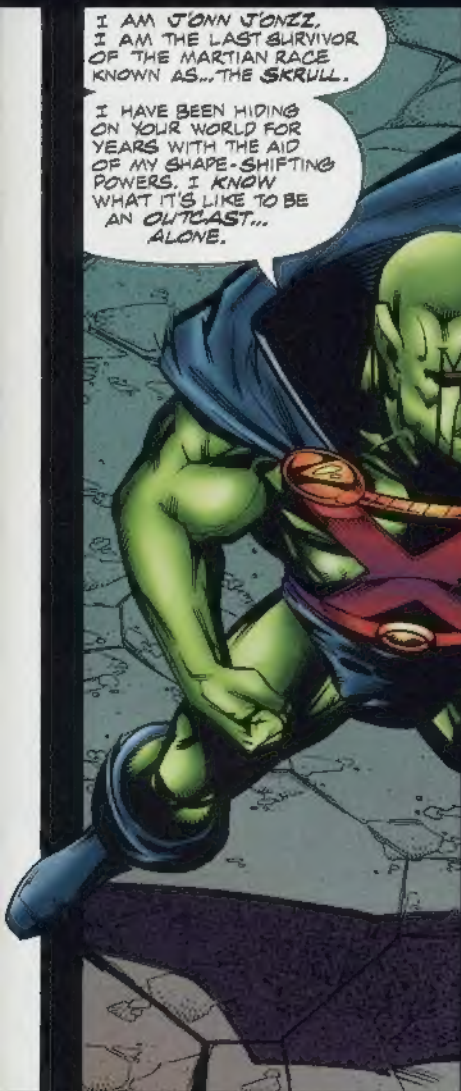


STOP!!

THIS CITY AND
ITS DOME HAVE
BEEN DAMAGED!
IF WE'RE TO FIND
ANY TRACE OF THE
VANISHED ATLANTEANS'
TRAIL, IT MUST
BE NOW!

WHO ARE
YOU TO TELL
US WHAT TO
DO?!

WHAT
ARE YOU?!

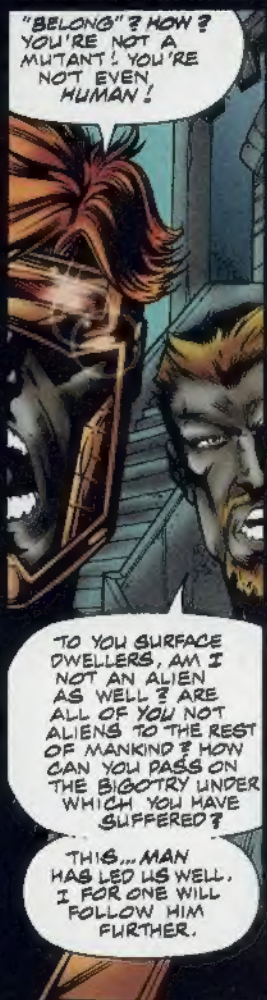


I AM J'ONN J'ONZZ.
I AM THE LAST SURVIVOR
OF THE MARTIAN RACE
KNOWN AS...THE SKRULL.

I HAVE BEEN HIDING
ON YOUR WORLD FOR
YEARS WITH THE AID
OF MY SHAPE-SHIFTING
POWERS. I KNOW
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE
AN OUTCAST...
ALONE.

WHEN I LEARNED
OF MUTANTS AND
THEIR PERSECUTION,
I SAW A WRONG
THAT NEEDED TO BE
RIGHTED. AND, TOO...
I SAW A COMMUNITY,
ONE THAT MIGHT
BE MINE...


... A PLACE
I MIGHT
BELONG...AT
LAST.



"BELONG"? HOW?
YOU'RE NOT A
MUTANT! YOU'RE
NOT EVEN
HUMAN!

TO YOU SURFACE
DWELLERS, AM I
NOT AN ALIEN
AS WELL? ARE
ALL OF YOU NOT
ALIENS TO THE REST
OF MANKIND? HOW
CAN YOU PASS ON
THE BIGOTRY UNDER
WHICH YOU HAVE
SUFFERED?

THIS... MAN
HAS LED US WELL.
I FOR ONE WILL
FOLLOW HIM
FURTHER.



SOMEWHERE IN
THIS CITY THERE
MUST REST THE
SECRET OF WHY
THE ATLANTEANS
DEPARTED... AND
WHERE THEY'VE
GONE.

FOLLOW ME,
AND I WILL DO
ALL I CAN TO
HELP YOU FIND
THEM.

WE'RE WITH
YOU, J'ONZZ...
OR X... OR
WHATEVER YOU
WANT TO BE
CALLED. WE'RE
WITH YOU...

...FOR
NOW.

NEXT:

APCALYPSO

Dear Bri and Ali,

JLA #122 was a bolt from the blue!!

Way back in the now classic ADVENTURES TO ASTONISH #76, Mariner was stripped of the serpent crown—and thus the only clue to his long-lost homeland of Atlantis—it made sense that he zealously protect the very seas that hide his eldorado. Any inch of ocean might hold the key to his quest, so don't mess with the wing-foot wonder. But to see him now portrayed as an eco-terrorist who would destroy an oil tanker for revenge is mind-boggling! And to see half of his former teammates turned against him while the others are accused of complicity—! Say it ain't so!

When the mutant members of the JLA decided they couldn't stand by and see Amalgam's first mutant railroaded and crashed the trial to save him, you could have knocked me over with a feather from Angelhawk's pinions! That last page has to be the most shocking climax ever!

For more than the obvious reasons, I smell a fish. Obviously, the Anxious Mariner has been set up, but by who? If you remember back to that aforementioned ADVENTURES TO ASTONISH issue, it was a Sentinel who stripped our waterlogged hero of the Serpent-Crown during the battle for Dinosaur Island. It hasn't been mentioned lately, but that has to mean that the ever-bitter Will Magnus is somewhere in the picture. Is he the mysterious silhouetted figure we see cackling at the TV arrest footage on page 8? Let me be the first to mention him as a candidate.

And speaking of mysterious guys, what's the deal with this Mr. X? For years over in SLEUTH COMICS, he's been shown to be a ruthless power broker and master crook, but now he's the mutant's benefactor? Something weird has got to be up with this creep!

Suffice it to say I can't stand waiting another second for JLA to premiere and answer these burning questions. So hurry up, already!

Gary Littleton
Parker Center, NY

Well, Gar, you're holding JLA in your hands now. And we've answered most of your questions. Is this service, or what?!

Keep reading, partner, the Amalgam-Nation is taking over!



Gents,

You have some X-plaining to do.

For years the great debate at my comic shop was whether Apollo and Co. should X-size themselves from the JLA. There were enough dangling plot threads for the mutant members of the World's Mightiest

JLX-PRESS

BRIAN'S BOOM BOX

Sure, this is the first issue of our mighty mutants in their own title, but this scintillating storyline has been cooking for months over in the super-hot pages of JUDGMENT LEAGUE AVENGERS. So what follows is a sampling of your megacool missives on the "Trial of Mariner" epic. Read on, Distinctive Ones!

Heroes to warrant their own adventures. Finally, I could stop holding my breath! I'd heard over the Internet that the JLX was making its way to the racks. Words can't express the great X-pectations I have for this book.

From the "getting carried away with enthusiasm" department:

1) Will Lord Nimrod and his X-tremists return to reveal the final secret of Firebird's origin? Is she from an alternative future, or was he just pulling our leg?

2) Now that she's been dumped by the JLA, will Runaway rejoin the Brotherhood of Injustice and her mother Ms. Tique?

3) When the rebel Skrull were driven from Mars by the Kree, one lone survivor fled to Earth. Any chance he could be the missing link to mutantkind's origin?

4) With her falling out with Super-Soldier, will Amazon lead the JLX?

5) How about guest appearances by Sunstorm, Spiderboy, Metamimic, Extreme Works and Speed Demon?

6) Can I get an advance copy?

Vincent Thomkins
Belvedere, Ont.
CANADA

Numbered questions, we LOVE numbered questions!

1) Sooner than later, count on it, Vince! Firebird won't wait for those secrets and neither will we!

2) No, she's with JLX to stay, but what Ms. Tique and her evil mutants will do about that will be seen in issue #6!

3) If you've read this very issue, you know the answer. Good spotting!

4) Amazon has her own problems currently, but she does guest-star here in our fourth issue.

5) Sunstorm IS a mutant, so his dropping by seems a foregone conclusion.

Spiderboy isn't on the guest list any time soon, but watch for his flyby in an upcoming FANTASTIC LEGION! Speed Demon and Mercury have a reckoning coming in the very near future. Metamimic may already be here. How would we know for sure? And you gotta know that Extreme

Works won't let the X-ers remain unchallenged for the title of Amalgam's most radical heroes for very long.

6) Hey, they won't even give ME advance copies!

You ask—we answer!



Hey, Leaguers,

Mariner's return to greatness in the pages of JLA has been the greatest comeback since Dark Claw shook off his paralysis and took the evil Warlord Gh'ul out of the picture once and for all! I'm sure that the Son of the Seas' creator, Everett Williams, must be smiling down on all of you great artists and writers.

As a fan of more than forty years of comics reading, I'm always glad to see the "older" heroes get a chance at new life, especially when they're this well handled. I love what you're doing with Mariner AND with all of the younger heroes as well. They can stand to learn from his leadership in the same way that you guys obviously have from the classic greats of this business like Williams, Stan Schwartz and "King" Kurtzberg! Now, if only someone could give the long underrated Thunder Man a similar makeover!

Keep up the great work and I'll be with you for another forty years!

Earl Jarmon
Santa Marta, CA

We'll keep producing 'em if you keep reading 'em, Earl; consider it a deal. Thanks for the years of support!

As for the fate of the mighty Thunder Man, check out the pages of BRUCE WAYNE, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. in the very near future for a most surprising and, we think, pleasing answer to your wish.

NEXT: With Apollo gone missing, it's the worst time for Thanoseld to attack, so you'd better believe that's when the blackhearted baddie chooses to make his move! And when Magneto and his Magnetic friends drop by, will it be as friends or foes? Don't miss this startling second ish!

AMALGAM



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